

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 03622 131119Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /063 W

----- 050329

R 131105Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NP

SUBJ: MEASURES TO TIGHTEN GON CONTROL OF PRESS

1. AN AMENDMENT TO THE PRESS AND PUBLICATION ACT OF 1962
DESIGNED TO TIGHTEN GOVERNMENT PRESS CONTROLS
WAS ENACTED BY THE RASHTRIYA PANCHAYAT AUGUST. BARRING UNUSUAL
DEVELOPMENTS, THE AMENDMENT SHOULD RECEIVE THE KING'S SIGNATURE
SOON, TAKING EFFECT SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THE NEW MEASURE,
ACCORDING TO SPARSE PRESS INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGEABLE
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WILL SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT CRITICISM
OF THE KING, PANCHAYAT SYSTEM, NEPALESE FOREIGN POLICY,
FOREIGN AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN NEPAL, AND NEPALESE DIPLOMATS
POSTED ABROAD. IN ADDITION, THE PRESS WILL BE FORBIDDEN
TO RECEIVE MONEY FROM ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OR INTERNATIONAL
AGENCY AND MUST SUBMIT ARTICLES ON CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS
IN ADVANCE TO GOVERNMENT CENSORS. TO ENFORCE THESE
REGULATIONS THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET UP A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL
TO PASS JUDGMENT ON ALLEGED VIOLATIONS. NO COURT APPEAL
OF THE TRIBUNAL'S DECISIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE AND THE
PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATIONS WILL BE SEVERE. FIRST OFFENDERS
CAN BE FINED UP TO NC5,000 (APPROXIMATELY \$500) AND LOSE
THEIR LICENSE TO PUBLISH FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD. A
SECOND OFFENSE WILL BAR THE INDIVIDUAL FOR LIFE FROM
PUBLISHING HIS VIEWS OR BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEWSPAPER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 03622 131119Z

INDUSTRY. FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO

PUBLICATIONS WHICH DO NOT DISPLEASE THE GOVERNMENT.

2. SOME REPORTS HAVE IT THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO USE THE NEW LAW INITIALLY TO CLOSE DOWN THE PRO-SOVIET PUBLICATIONS SAMIKSHA WEEKLY AND THE COMMONER, AS WELL AS THE PRO-CHINESE MATRIBHUMI WEEKLY AND THE PRO-INDIAN DAINIK NEPAL AND NEPAL TIMES.

3. COMMENT: IN GON EYES, THE NEW PRESS LAW, WHEN AVAILABLE IN FINAL FORM, WILL HELP DIMINISH TWO PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE CONFRONTED THE PALACE, NAMELY, PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY NOTABLE FOLLOWING FORMATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSION, AND THE PUBLIC INFIGHTING THAT HAS GONE ON AMONG PRO-SOVIET, PRO-CHINESE AND PRO-INDIAN NEWS PUBLICATIONS TO THE EMBARRASSMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER ANALYSIS WHEN FINAL TEXT RECEIVED. CARGO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, PRESS COMMENTS, KING, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA03622
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750279-0677
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750857/aaaabxxt.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEASURES TO TIGHTEN GON CONTROL OF PRESS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006